Expenditure on Research and Development in Industrial Sector

@@@364. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure of Government on research and development in the industrial sector is not adequate enough to raise productivity in industries;

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken or propose to take any step to spend more on R&D work and improve productivity; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Nearly 80 per cent of the R&D expenditure in the country is incurred by the Government through the major research organisations with their chain of laboratories. Further some research and development activities in the industrial sector are funded by Government. Over 20 per cent of the R&D expenditure is incurred by the industry. R&D in Industry by Industry is of recent origin in India and has been increasing gradually. New initiatives and efforts have been made to establish close linkages between R&D institutions, university sector and industry through various mechanisms, with a view to improve productivity in R&D.

(c) The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) in the Ministry of Science and Technology has a scheme for recognition of in-house R&D centres in industry. Currently there are over 1200 in-house R&D units in industry which have a valid recognition from DSIR. To encourage R&D in industries, Government has taken several measures which include: presenting awards in recognition of the achievements in industrial R&D; preferential treatment in licensing of industries including MRTP companies, based on indigenous technology; fiscal incentives for expenditure incurred on scientific research and utilisation of indigenous technology.

Eradication of Poverty

@365. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to eradicate poverty from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far to achieve its commitment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A major objective of planned development has been to bring about progressive decline in the incidence of poverty in the successive Five Year Plans with the goal of reducing it to a marginal level by the end of the century. This has been sought to be achieved through a dual process of economic growth and special programmes for the poor. The percentage of people living below the poverty line is estimated to have declined from 51.5 per cent in 1972-73 to 29.2 per cent (provisional) in 1987-88. The approach to the Eighth Five Year Plan envisages an accelerated process of reduction in poverty primarily through maximising productive employment opportunities.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question No. 77, transferred from 30-4-90.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 256 transferred from 4-5-1990.